

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

### NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark  
Office  
Box PCT  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

<b>Date of mailing</b> (day/month/year) 23 May 2000 (23.05.00)	<b>Applicant's or agent's file reference</b> 7822/VB
<b>International application No.</b> PCT/US99/24942	<b>Priority date</b> (day/month/year) 23 October 1998 (23.10.98)
<b>International filing date</b> (day/month/year) 22 October 1999 (22.10.99)	<b>Applicant</b> BARNABAS, Mary, Vijayarani et al

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

02 May 2000 (02.05.00)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was

☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland  Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	<b>Authorized officer</b>  Pascal Piriou  Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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**PCT**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
International Bureau

## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<b>(51) International Patent Classification <sup>7</sup> :</b> <b>C11D 3/22, 7/26</b>	<b>A1</b>	<b>(11) International Publication Number:</b> <b>WO 00/24856</b> <b>(43) International Publication Date:</b> 4 May 2000 (04.05.00)
<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/US99/24942 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 22 October 1999 (22.10.99)  <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 60/105,375 23 October 1998 (23.10.98) US <i>23 Apr 01/30 mon</i> <b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY [US/US]; One Procter & Gamble Plaza, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (US). <b>(72) Inventors; and</b> <b>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):</b> BARNABAS, Mary, Vijayarani [IN/US]; 5777 Sawgrass Drive, West Chester, OH 45069 (US); TRINH, Toan [US/US]; 8671 Creekwood Lane, Maineville, OH 45039 (US); BARNABAS, Freddy, Arthur [US/US]; 5777 Sawgrass Drive, West Chester, OH 45069 (US); SHOWELL, Michael, Stanford [US/US]; 810 Finney Trail, Cincinnati, OH 45224 (US); STINE, Mark, Richard [US/US]; 2631 East U.S. 22 and 3, Morrow, OH 45152 (US); SMETS, Johan [BE/BE]; Bollenberg 79, B-3210 Lubbeek (BE); TORDIL, Helen, Bernardo [US/US]; 7590 West Chester Road, West Chester, OH 45069 (US); WERNICKE, Todd, Michael [US/US]; 8706 Tanagerwoods Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45249 (US).		<b>(74) Agents:</b> REED, T., David et al.; The Procter & Gamble Company, 5299 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45217-1087 (US).  <b>(81) Designated States:</b> AE, AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), DM, EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
<b>(54) Title:</b> FABRIC CARE COMPOSITION AND METHOD  <b>(57) Abstract</b>  The present invention relates to fabric care compositions, methods, and articles of manufacture for treating fabrics, comprising an effective amount of fabric care polysaccharides with globular structure. Optionally, the composition can contain other ingredients to improve performance and formulatability. The compositions can be applied to fabric by spraying, soaking, dipping, and can also be used for pre-wash treatment, adding to the wash cycle, adding to the rinse cycle, and/or adding to the drying cycle. Preferably the compositions are applied from spray containers which preferably are in association with instructions for use.		

**FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY**

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
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EE	Estonia	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>7822/VB</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. <b>PCT/US 99/ 24942</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>22/10/1999</b>	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) <b>23/10/1998</b>
Applicant <b>THE PROCTER &amp; GAMBLE COMPANY et al.</b>		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 5 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.



the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:



contained in the international application in written form.



filed together with the international application in computer readable form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.



the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.



the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.



as suggested by the applicant.



because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.



because this figure better characterizes the invention.



None of the figures.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 99/24942

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 7 C11D3/22 C11D7/26

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C11D D06M D06P

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
E	WO 99 55736 A (LAREX INC) 4 November 1999 (1999-11-04)  page 9, line 3 - line 10 page 16, line 9 - line 14; claim 1	1,4,5, 7-11,44, 45,61, 64, 66-71, 89-93
X	WO 91 15564 A (HENKEL KGAA) 17 October 1991 (1991-10-17)  abstract; table 1  -/-	1-5, 35, 39,40, 44,45, 51-53, 60, 64-73, 79,89-93

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 February 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

03/03/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Authorized officer

Saunders, T

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. l. Application No

PCT/US 99/24942

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>EP 0 703 243 A (UNILEVER) 27 March 1996 (1996-03-27)</p> <p>page 2, line 51 - line 55; claim 6</p>	<p>1-5, 35, 39, 40, 44, 45, 51-53, 60, 64-72, 79, 89-93</p>
X	<p>PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 018, no. 533 (C-1259), 11 October 1994 (1994-10-11) &amp; JP 06 184943 A (SHIN ETSU CHEM CO LTD), 5 July 1994 (1994-07-05) abstract</p>	<p>1, 4, 5; 35, 64, 66-72, 80, 89-93</p>
X	<p>DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 199421 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class D16, AN 1994-174016 XP002131387 &amp; JP 06 116586 A (NIPPON SYNTHETIC CHEM IND CO), 26 April 1994 (1994-04-26) abstract</p>	<p>1, 4, 7, 35, 44, 45, 51, 52, 64, 66-72, 89-93</p>
A	<p>US 4 169 064 A (SAGEL JOHN A ET AL) 25 September 1979 (1979-09-25)</p> <p>abstract; example I</p>	<p>1-5, 35, 39, 40, 44, 45, 51, 52, 54, 60, 64, 66-72, 79, 89, 94</p>
A	<p>WO 95 34625 A (PROCTER &amp; GAMBLE) 21 December 1995 (1995-12-21)</p> <p>page 6, line 8 - line 9; claim 1; example III</p>	<p>1-4, 12, 14, 15, 18, 35, 39, 40, 44, 45, 51, 52, 60, 64, 66-72, 89-93</p>

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 99/24942

## C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>WO 96 15310 A (PROCTER &amp; GAMBLE) 23 May 1996 (1996-05-23)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p> <p>claims 1-6,9</p>	<p>1, 19-30, 35, 44-46, 48, 51, 52, 54, 64, 66-72, 74-76, 78, 89</p>
A	<p>WO 97 45510 A (SALIENT SCIENCE INC ) 4 December 1997 (1997-12-04)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p> <p>abstract; example 1</p>	<p>1-4, 35, 39, 40, 44, 45, 51, 52, 60, 64, 66-69, 93</p>
A	<p>US 3 600 325 A (BROWN WILLIAM J ET AL) 17 August 1971 (1971-08-17)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p> <p>claim 1</p>	<p>1, 35, 44-46, 51, 52, 64, 66-72, 74, 89</p>
A	<p>WO 96 21714 A (PROCTER &amp; GAMBLE) 18 July 1996 (1996-07-18)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p> <p>abstract; claims 10, 14</p>	<p>1, 34-38, 44, 45, 51, 52, 61, 64, 66-72, 82, 83, 93</p>
A	<p>WO 96 04937 A (PROCTER &amp; GAMBLE) 22 February 1996 (1996-02-22)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p> <p>abstract page 33, line 5 - line 29</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-/--</p>	<p>1, 12, 14, 15, 34, 35, 44-46, 48, 51, 52, 64, 66-72, 74, 89-91, 93</p>

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 99/24942

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>WO 97 41292 A (PROCTER &amp; GAMBLE ) 6 November 1997 (1997-11-06)</p> <p>claims 19-21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">----</p>	<p>1,35, 41-45, 51,52, 56,62, 64, 66-72, 84, 86-88,95</p>
A	<p>DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 199338 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class D25, AN 1993-297903 XP002131388 &amp; JP 05 209195 A (OLYMPUS OPTICAL CO LTD), 20 August 1993 (1993-08-20) abstract</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	<p>1,4,7-9, 35</p>



# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

information on patent family members

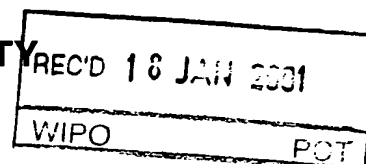
Int. ional Application No

PCT/US 99/24942

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9955736	A	04-11-1999	NONE	
WO 9115564	A	17-10-1991	DE 4011487 A EP 0524975 A	10-10-1991 03-02-1993
EP 0703243	A	27-03-1996	NONE	
JP 06184943	A	05-07-1994	NONE	
JP 6116586	A	26-04-1994	NONE	
US 4169064	A	25-09-1979	NONE	
WO 9534625	A	21-12-1995	CA 2192549 A EP 0765378 A JP 10504329 T	21-12-1995 02-04-1997 28-04-1998
WO 9615310	A	23-05-1996	BR 9509716 A EP 0791096 A JP 10508912 T TR 960475 A US 5798107 A ZA 9509558 A	21-10-1997 27-08-1997 02-09-1998 21-07-1996 25-08-1998 05-06-1996
WO 9745510	A	04-12-1997	AU 3144497 A	05-01-1998
US 3600325	A	17-08-1971	NONE	
WO 9621714	A	18-07-1996	AU 4656996 A BR 9607183 A CA 2209934 A CN 1177373 A CZ 9702218 A EP 0802966 A HU 9801171 A JP 10512318 T US 5686376 A ZA 9600076 A	31-07-1996 11-11-1997 18-07-1996 25-03-1998 12-11-1997 29-10-1997 28-08-1998 24-11-1998 11-11-1997 18-07-1996
WO 9604937	A	22-02-1996	US 5714137 A CA 2197441 A CN 1159762 A CZ 9700402 A EP 0774978 A HU 76679 A JP 10503953 T TR 960139 A US 5668097 A	03-02-1998 22-02-1996 17-09-1997 16-07-1997 28-05-1997 28-10-1997 14-04-1998 21-06-1996 16-09-1997
WO 9741292	A	06-11-1997	NONE	
JP 5209195	A	20-08-1993	NONE	

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT



### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT


(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>7822/VB</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. <b>PCT/US99/24942</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>22/10/1999</b>	Priority date (day/month/year) <b>23/10/1998</b>
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC <b>C11D3/22</b>		
Applicant <b>THE PROCTER &amp; GAMBLE COMPANY et al.</b>		

- This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
- This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.  
  
☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).  
  
 These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

- This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☒ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand <b>02/05/2000</b>	Date of completion of this report <b>16.01.2001</b>
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:   <b>European Patent Office</b> <b>D-80298 Munich</b> <b>Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d</b> <b>Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465</b>	Authorized officer  <b>Drew, C</b>  <b>Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8494</b>



# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US99/24942

## I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of *(substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).):*

### Description, pages:

1-157 as originally filed

### Claims, No.:

1-96 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US99/24942

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

## V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

### 1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	8-18,20-24,28-33,37,48-50,55,58,62,74-78,84-88,90,92
	No:	Claims	1-7,19,25-27,34-36,38-47,51-54,56-57,59-61,63-73,79-83,89,91,93-96
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	8-18,20-24,28-33,37,48-50,55,58,62,74-78,84-88,90,92
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-96
	No:	Claims	

### 2. Citations and explanations see separate sheet

## VI. Certain documents cited

### 1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

and / or

### 2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

see separate sheet

## VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:  
see separate sheet

## VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:  
see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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International application No. PCT/US99/24942

**Introduction**

In response to the written opinion the applicants have presented counter arguments to the various issues raised by the examiner, especially with respect to novelty and inventive step. However, these counter arguments seem to ignore the fact that compositions comprising any polysaccharide exhibiting globular structure and their use in fabric care are, in fact, being claimed. For this reason the international preliminary examination report which follows is merely a repeat of the written opinion.

**Ad section V.:**

The following documents are cited herein:

D1= JP-A-6184943 (Patent Abstracts of Japan)

D2= JP-A-6184943 (Derwent Abstract)

D3= WO-A-91/155564

D4= US-A-4169064

D5= WO-A-97/45510

D6= WO-A-97/11151

Fabric care compositions comprising a polysaccharide as required by present claim 1 were already known from the prior art (see D1, D2 as well as claims and examples of D3 and D4 and D5, examples 1 to 3 and claims 20, 21).

Therefore, the subject-matter of claim 1 lacks novelty (Article 33(2) PCT).

The additional features of claims 2 to 7, 19, 25-27, 34-36, 38-47, 51-54, 56-57, 59-61, 63-73, 79-83, 89, 91, 93-96 are disclosed in the above mentioned documents.

In this respect, the numerous preferred embodiments specified in the claims, as well as the indication of use in the product claims, do not limit in any respect the scope of such claims. Furthermore, instructions for use must necessarily be associated to a product put on the market and they must explain the use of the product and necessarily contain pictures or icons, e.g. for identification of the producer.

Therefore, all these features are inherently disclosed in the above cited prior art, which relates to industrially applicable compositions.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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International application No. PCT/US99/24942

In the light of the prior art, e.g. D6, it was already obvious to use oligosaccharides (page 5, line 34 to page 6, line 8 and page 7, line 31 to page 8, line 16) as enhancers for fabric care agents or to use silicone polymers (pages 42 and 43); it was thus obvious for a skilled man to use the commercially available oligosaccharides and modified silicone polymers in the compositions of D1 to D5 and to expect similar results. Furthermore, it was also obvious to use other commercially available polysaccharides with a 1,3-[SPEC0803]-glycosidic linkage like the pullulans or the glucans used in D1 and D2. It was also obvious to use in the above known compositions known polymers as those of claims 28-32 or salts like those of claim 33 or the known softeners of claim 37. Moreover, it was obvious in the light of the cited prior art and of the general knowledge of a skilled man to use known conditioning compositions as a pretreatment before washing or in the main wash or in the rinse or as a dryer-added composition and it was obvious to select for all these processes the optimum method of application of the composition.

None of the additional features of the novel claims 8 to 18, 20-24, 28-33, 37, 48-50, 55, 58, 62, 74-78, 84-88, 90 and 92 appear to provide an unexpected advantage with respect to the prior art and thus these claims do not involve an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

**Ad section VI.:**

WO-A-99/55736, published on 04.11.99 and claiming a priority date of 27.04.98 appears to disclose all the features of claims 1 to 11, 19-20, 35-36, 38-43, 45-47, 51-52, 63-64, 70-72, 89, 91, 92, 94 and 95 (see claims, examples and page 18, line 15 to page 30, line 7).

**Ad section VII.:**

Independent claims are not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the prior art (one of documents D1 to D5) being placed in a preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(i) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in a characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).

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Independent claims should therefore be redrafted accordingly. If, however, the applicant is of the opinion that the two-part form would be inappropriate, then reasons therefor should be provided in the letter of reply.

Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the documents D1 to D5 is not mentioned in the description, nor are these documents identified therein.

The present application comprises an exceedingly great number of claims, which does not appear to be justified by the real scope of the invention. In fact, since the subject-matter of most of the claims appears to be not novel, the set of claims should be redrafted with a minimum of independent claims (Rule 6.1(a) PCT) and taking into account the requirements of unity of invention (Rule 13.1 PCT).

**Ad section VIII.:**

The wordings "polysaccharide with globular structure", "substituted versions of said oligosaccharides" and "derivatised versions of said oligosaccharides" in the claims are unclear insofar, as they do not identify precisely the type of compounds or derivatives thereof falling within the scope of the claims.

Furthermore, the word "about", referred to numerical ranges in the claims, detracts from the clarity of such claims.